FILE 313

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY USSR/Austria

SUBJECT New Soviet 7.62-mm Semi-Automatic Carbine, Model SKS

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 14 March 1955

NO. OF PAGES 12

25X1

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Attached are also three photographs to which reference is made in the report.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	#x	ARMY Ev.	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI		AEC					

Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".

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REPORT [redacted] 25X1

COUNTRY USSR/Austria

DATE DISTR. 21, Jan, 1955

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NO. OF PAGES 11

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REFERENCES: 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

Issuing of Carbine

1. An unknown number of the new Soviet 7.62-mm, semi-automatic, Model SKS, carbines was received [redacted] in the latter part of June 1954; but it was not issued to the troops until 12 July 1954. [redacted] was issued a new carbine bearing [redacted] manufactured in 1953. In addition to the carbine, [redacted] was issued three ammunition pouches, two ammunition clips which were later turned in, a circular metal tag, and a cleaning accessory kit. The metal tag was manufactured in Austria and bore the stamped markings KR and OT 227, denoting the word karabin (carbine) [redacted] The cleaning accessory kit consisted of a cleaning rod, a bore brush, a cleaning rod stop, a cleaning rod handle pin, a cleaning rod attachment, a cleaning rod handle, and an oil can. The oil can was partitioned into two sections, with one section containing bore cleaner and the other a lubricating oil.

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2. [redacted] at the company arms room [redacted] There

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] had to turn in [redacted] metal tag and sign for the weapon before it was issued. The duty soldier varied from day to day and was on duty for 24 hours. 25X1

3. [redacted]

4. [redacted] 25X1

Characteristics of Carbine and Its Ammunition

5. The following are the characteristics of the new carbine and its ammunition. (For detailed sketches see Enclosures.)

a.	Model	SKS-Samozaryadnyy Karabin Simenova
b.	Caliber	7.62-mm
c.	Operation	Gas, semi-automatic
d.	Diameter of gas port	0.100 inch approximately
e.	Magazine capacity	Nine or ten rounds [redacted] 25X1
f.	Magazine	Integral box
g.	Weight with bayonet and cleaning accessories	Approximately 7.96 lbs.
h.	Length with bayonet in folded position	Approximately 40 inches
i.	Length of barrel	Approximately 22 inches
j.	Muzzle velocity	Unknown
k.	Rifling	Four, uniform right-hand twist
l.	Cooling	Air
m.	Sights: (1) Front (2) Rear	Open post with circular guard Tangent curve - graduated from 1 to 20 [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] the graduations represented hundreds of meters.) 25X1

n. Bolt Assembly

25X1

3.

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25X1

n.	Stock assembly	Two pieces, consisting of the stock and upper hand guard. Stock assembly was not laminated.
o.	Method of charging	Ten-round clip. Rounds held in clip in a straight line.
p.	Range	Unknown
q.	Rate of fire	Unknown
r.	Bayonet	Permanent, folding-knife-type bayonet
s.	Sling	Web type, fastened under stock rear and left front.
t.	Weapon replaced	7.62-mm Mossin Nagant Carbine M1944.

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u. Ammunition:

(1) Model — M1943. 25X1

(2) Basic load per man — 150 rounds. Each ammunition pouch held 50 rounds.

(3) Type — Armor-piercing

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Packaging of Carbine

6. the weapons were received in wooden boxes, with each box containing 10 carbines. All weapons received were in cosmolene. the weight of the box, was stenciled 70 kg.

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25X1

Packaging of Ammunition

7. Ammunition was packed in paper cartons containing either 10 or 15 rounds each. The cartons were packed in wooden boxes containing a total of approximately 2,320 rounds.

Cleaning of Carbine

8. After firing, weapons were cleaned daily for one week with a bore cleaner and then covered with a light coat of oil. To prepare the weapon for cleaning, it was first necessary to remove the cleaning accessories from the compartment located in the butt of the stock. The bayonet was then positioned at a right angle to the weapon to allow the cleaning rod to be extracted from its housing in the forward portion of the stock. After the necessary cleaning accessories had been removed from the weapon, the cleaning rod was inserted through a hole in the cleaning rod handle. Next, the cleaning rod handle pin was inserted through another hole in the cleaning rod handle and through the cleaning rod head, thus forming a T-like handle. The individual then slid the cleaning rod stop on the cleaning rod and attached the bore brush to the end of the cleaning rod. The brush was inserted into the bore and the cleaning rod stop fitted over the muzzle end and attached to the base of the front sight and cleaning rod lugs by turning the cleaning rod stop until it was properly engaged. The weapon could then be cleaned in the conventional manner.3 The cleaning rod handle was also used as a receptacle for the bore brush, cleaning rod attachment, and cleaning rod handle pin, with the cleaning rod stop as a cover or a closing plug. This handle was housed in the rear of the stock.

Spent Cartridge Case Accountability: Security

9. [redacted] when the weapons were being fired on the range, a man with a "butterfly net" would stand to the right of the firer and catch the spent cartridge cases as they were ejected from the weapon. An instance [redacted] when one day one spent cartridge case was unaccounted for. The entire company spent part of the afternoon and until dusk looking for this cartridge case, but it was not found. The following morning one platoon [redacted] returned to the range and searched the entire morning without any results. That afternoon, another platoon [redacted] looked for the lost cartridge case and finally found it late in the afternoon. [redacted] if a man lost a live round or a spent cartridge case he would receive a sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

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Loading of Carbine

10. Instructions on loading [redacted] were as follows:

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a. For loading the carbine, the weapon was set on safe by moving the safety lever downward so that it was positioned behind the trigger. [redacted] this action blocked the movement of the trigger internally, but could not state how.

25X1

b. The bolt assembly was pulled to the rear in the open position. A loaded 10-round, in-line clip was inserted into the feed guide located in the forward portion of the bolt carrier. By pushing down on the rounds, the magazine follower was activated downward, thus compressing the follower spring. As the rounds were being inserted into the magazine, they automatically staggered themselves. After the weapon had been loaded, the clip was removed from the weapon, allowing the bolt to go forward. The bolt in its forward movement would strip a round from the magazine and chamber it.

25X1

c. After the safety was set in the off position, the weapon was ready to fire.

Operation of the Weapon

11. The weapon employed eight steps to its cycle of operation which were as follows (starting with firing):

a. Firing

As the trigger was being squeezed, it activated the sear and enabled it to be disconnected from the hammer. The hammer, under spring tension from the hammer spring, flew forward and struck a free floating firing pin housed in the bolt. The firing pin moved forward, firing the chambered round. As soon as the bullet passed the gas port, the gases entered the gas cylinder chamber via the gas port.

b. Unlocking

The gases struck the piston, forcing the piston (piston and piston rod are integral) to the rear. This in turn activated the operating rod against the face of the bolt carrier. The operating rod spring was compressed during this action and would later return the operating rod and piston rod to their normal home position. The bolt carrier had recoiled approximately two centimeters to the rear before unlocking took place. The bolt carrier continued its rearward movement, the bolt camming lug engaged the bolt camming lug recess in the bolt and cammed the bolt forward. This upward camming action of the bolt was the actual unlocking step within the cycle of operation.

c. Extraction

Once unlocking had been accomplished and the bolt had started its rearward movement with the bolt carrier, the spent cartridge case was extracted from the chamber by the extractor located on the right side of the bolt.

d. Ejection

Once the cartridge case had been extracted and was still held to the face of the bolt by the extractor, ejection took place when the bolt passed the spring loaded ejector located at the left receiver wall. This permitted it to strike the base of the cartridge case, thereby ejecting the spent case up and to the right.

e. Feeding

The follower located in the magazine was continuously exerting an upward pressure against the rounds with the aid of the follower spring. Once the face of the bolt passed the base of the top cartridge case, the top cartridge rode upward into position for the next step in the cycle. The upward movement of the rounds was restricted by the ejector.

f. Chambering

The bolt assembly, which had been recoiling to the rear while the above steps were being accomplished, had been storing energy by means of the counterrecoil spring. Once the recoil had stopped, the bolt assembly counterrecoiled under pressure of the spring. At the same time it stripped a round out of the magazine and chambered it. As the round chambered, the extractor engaged itself into the extracting groove of the cartridge case.

25X1

g. Locking

As the bolt assembly counterrecoiled and chambering took place, the rear end of the bolt was cammed downward by the camming action of the bolt camming lug moving out of the bolt camming lug recess. The bolt, having a cammed surface at its bottom rear, slid down a corresponding cammed surface in the receiver, bridging the receiver from left to right. Once the bolt was locked in the locking receiver recess, the bolt carrier continued its forward movement for approximately two centimeters. The bolt when in the locked position was at an angle. a distance 25X1
of approximately five millimeters existed between the top rear of the bolt and the internal bottom of the bolt carrier while it was approximately one to two millimeters at the front of the bolt. (See Enclosure A, page 1, for front and rear view of the bolt assembly.)

h. Cocking[4]

As the bolt started to move to the rear, it forced the hammer to rotate counterclockwise and thus compress the hammer spring.

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25X1 In order for the weapon to be fully cocked, the bolt had to be in the locked position. When it was in the locked position, it exerted a downward pressure on a disconnector, thus allowing the hammer to fly forward once the trigger was squeezed.[5]

12. it was commonly accepted among EM of unit 25X1
that the bore and bolt carrier of this weapon was chromed because of the color and texture of the metal, which differed greatly from that in older weapons. 25X1
certain that the items were chromed. 25X1
25X1
(See Enclosure B.) 25X1

13. After the last round was fired, the bolt assembly was held in the open position to facilitate rapid loading of the weapon. This was accomplished in the following manner. The follower had a finger riding in a groove of the magazine. This finger forced a spring-loaded bolt catch, housed in the receiver, upward to a sufficient height to allow the face of the bolt to hang up on the bolt catch. This held the bolt assembly in the open position after the last round was fired. When the weapon was reloaded, the follower was forced downward and the spring forced the bolt catch down to prevent engagement of the bolt during normal firing. Unexpended rounds could be removed from the weapon by activating the magazine catch, thus permitting the magazine cover to drop down.

14. The piston and piston rod cylinder housing was tapered only in that portion of the housing where the piston was able to move. This taper acted as a brake to restrict the rearward movement of the piston and piston rod.

Disassembling of Carbine

15. The carbine was disassembled in the following fashion and order:

a. Removal of Trigger-Housing Group

The spring-loaded trigger group locking bar was pushed forward with a pointed tool; the cleaning rod handle was sufficient. This bar was located in a small recess in the top of the stock immediately to the rear of the receiver. This pushing action

25X1

would unlock the locking bar from the rear of the receiver tang and permit the trigger group to be removed from the weapon.

b. Removal of Magazine Assembly

The magazine assembly was removed by pulling to the rear and up.

c. Removal of the Stock from the Barrel and Receiver Group

The bayonet was placed at a right angle to the barrel and the cleaning rod removed. The rear of the stock was grasped with the receiver upside down and pulled upward and to the rear.

d. Removal of the Receiver Cover.

The receiver cover locking lever, located on the right side of the receiver, was lifted up. The locking lever pin was rotated (pin and lever were integral), thus permitting an offset lug on the pin to be in alignment with a hole in the receiver cover and receiver. The lever and pin were then removed by pulling out to the right. While the pin was being removed, forward pressure was exerted on the receiver cover since it was under the spring tension of the counterrecoil spring. Once the tension had been released, the receiver cover was pulled straight to the rear and removed from the weapon.

e. Removal of Counterrecoil Spring and Guides

The spring and guide were simply pulled out of the housing in the bolt carrier. The spring retaining lock on the forward end of the guide and the spring were removed in succession. The guide rod was pulled to the rear of the hollow guide and separated.

f. Removal of Bolt Assembly

The bolt assembly was pulled all the way to the rear so that the receiver guide grooves would not be in contact with the bolt carrier. The weapon cover was turned with the hand grasping the bolt carrier. This allowed the bolt carrier and bolt to fall out of the receiver. The bolt and bolt carrier were then separated. To remove the firing pin from the bolt, the firing pin retaining pin was removed and the firing pin pulled through the rear of the bolt.

g. Removal of Upper Hand Guard

The upper hand guard locking lever, located on the right side of the rear sight, was lifted to its most vertical position. This action rotated a half-moon lock at the rear of the guard, thus permitting the hand guard to be removed by pulling it up and to the rear.

h. Removal of Piston, Piston Rod Cylinder Housing, and Operating Rod and Spring

Unlocking of the cylinder had already been accomplished by the upper hand guard locking lever, thus permitting the cylinder to be lifted up by its rear end and pulled to the rear. The piston and piston rod were removed by being pulled out through the front end of the cylinder. The operating rod and spring were removed by pulling towards the muzzle end.

i. Removal of Bayonet Assembly

The bayonet retaining screw located in the bayonet lug was first unscrewed. This permitted the bayonet assembly to fall free from the weapon. The bayonet catch was slipped off from the bayonet handle and the spring then removed.

25X1

j. Removal of the Bayonet Housing Catch

The two retaining pins were removed and slipped off at the muzzle end.

k. Removal of Front Sight Assembly

The sight assembly was slipped off the bayonet housing catch.

l. Removal of Gas Cylinder

The retaining pin was knocked out and removed at the muzzle end.

m. Removal of Rear Sight Assembly

Remove the retaining pin and slide off at the muzzle end.

Assembling of Carbine

16. Assembly was done in reverse order to disassembly. 25X1
when the bolt assembly was being put together, care had to be 25X1
taken that it was lined up properly within the receiver.

Enclosures:

A. New Soviet 7.62-mm Semi-Automatic Carbine, SKS (2 pages)
Though marked as 1:1 on the Enclosure, the scale of the sketch was changed in the process of reproduction and is more accurately 1:47.

B. Photograph of Weapon

25X1

2. To date, only one physical specimen of the new Soviet cartridge has been received. The round was examined by ordnance specialists and found to have a mild steel core without any color markings 25X1
25X1

3. the purpose of the cleaning rod stop 25X1
is to prevent bell mouthing of the bore at the muzzle end.

4. This step actually started during the unlocking phase. But it is described at the end of the operating cycle because it was not completed until the weapon was locked and the trigger released from its squeezed position.

5. when the disconnector is activated 25X1
by the bolt, it in some manner disengages itself from the hammer or possibly disconnects the sear to allow forward movement of the hammer when the trigger is squeezed.

6. A very poor photograph of this weapon was obtained from 25X1
(See Enclosure B.) It might indicate that the bolt carrier 25X1
of the weapon was chromed. This is a very weak speculation and was based on the reflection of light by metal parts located in front and to the rear of the bolt carrier.

25X1

LEGEND TO ENCLOSURE A

1. Barrel
2. Stock
3. Receiver
4. Receiver Cover
5. Receiver Cover Locking Lever and Pin
6. Bolt Carrier
7. Bolt Handle
8. Bolt
9. Firing Pin
10. Extractor
11. Counter Recoil Spring
12. Counter Recoil Spring Guide Rod
13. Hollow Counter Recoil Spring Guide
14. Operating Rod
15. Operating Rod Spring
16. Piston and Piston Rod
17. Gas Cylinder
18. Piston and Piston Rod Cylinder Housing
19. Upper Hand Guard
20. Upper Hand Guard Locking Lever
21. Air Cooling Vents
22. Tangent Curve Rear Sight
23. Operating Rod and Spring Housing
24. Trigger Group Housing
25. Hammer
26. Hammer Spring
27. Hammer Spring Plunger
28. Trigger
29. Safety
30. Magazine Release Catch
31. Magazine Release Catch Spring
32. Sear
33. Trigger Group Locking Bar

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34. Trigger Group Locking Bar Spring
35. Trigger Group Locking Spring
36. Magazine
37. Magazine Cover
38. Magazine Follower Spring
39. Magazine Follower
40. Magazine Follower Arm
41. Bolt Catch and Spring
42. Magazine Assembly Retaining Lug
43. Magazine Assembly Hinge Pin
44. Trigger Group Retaining Lug.
45. Disconnector
46. Bayonet
47. Bayonet Catch Spring
48. Bayonet Catch
49. Bayonet Handle
50. Bayonet Retaining Screw
51. Bayonet Catch Lug
52. Cleaning Rod
53. Cleaning Rod Retaining Lugs
54. Bayonet and Front Sight Cylinder Base
55. Front Sight, Post Type w/circular Guard
56. Front Sight Adjusting Pin
57. Front Sight Base
58. Bolt Camming Lug
59. Bolt Camming Lug Recess
60. Bayonet and Front Sight Cylinder Base Pins
61. Gas Cylinder Retaining Pin
62. Sight Bracket Retaining Pin
63. Firing Pin Retaining Pin
64. Counter Recoil Spring and Guide Housing
65. Counter Recoil Spring Retaining Lock
66. Ejector, Spring Loaded
67. Receiver Bridge Cam

25X1

68. Cleaning Accessories Compartment
69. Cleaning Accessories Compartment Spring
70. Bore Brush
71. Cleaning Rod Attachment
72. Cleaning Rod Handle Pin
73. Cleaning Rod Handle
74. Cleaning Rod Stop
75. Oil Can
76. Cleaning Accessory Compartment Cover
77. Safety Recess
78. Butt Plate
79. Clip Feed Guide
80. Bolt Carrier Guide

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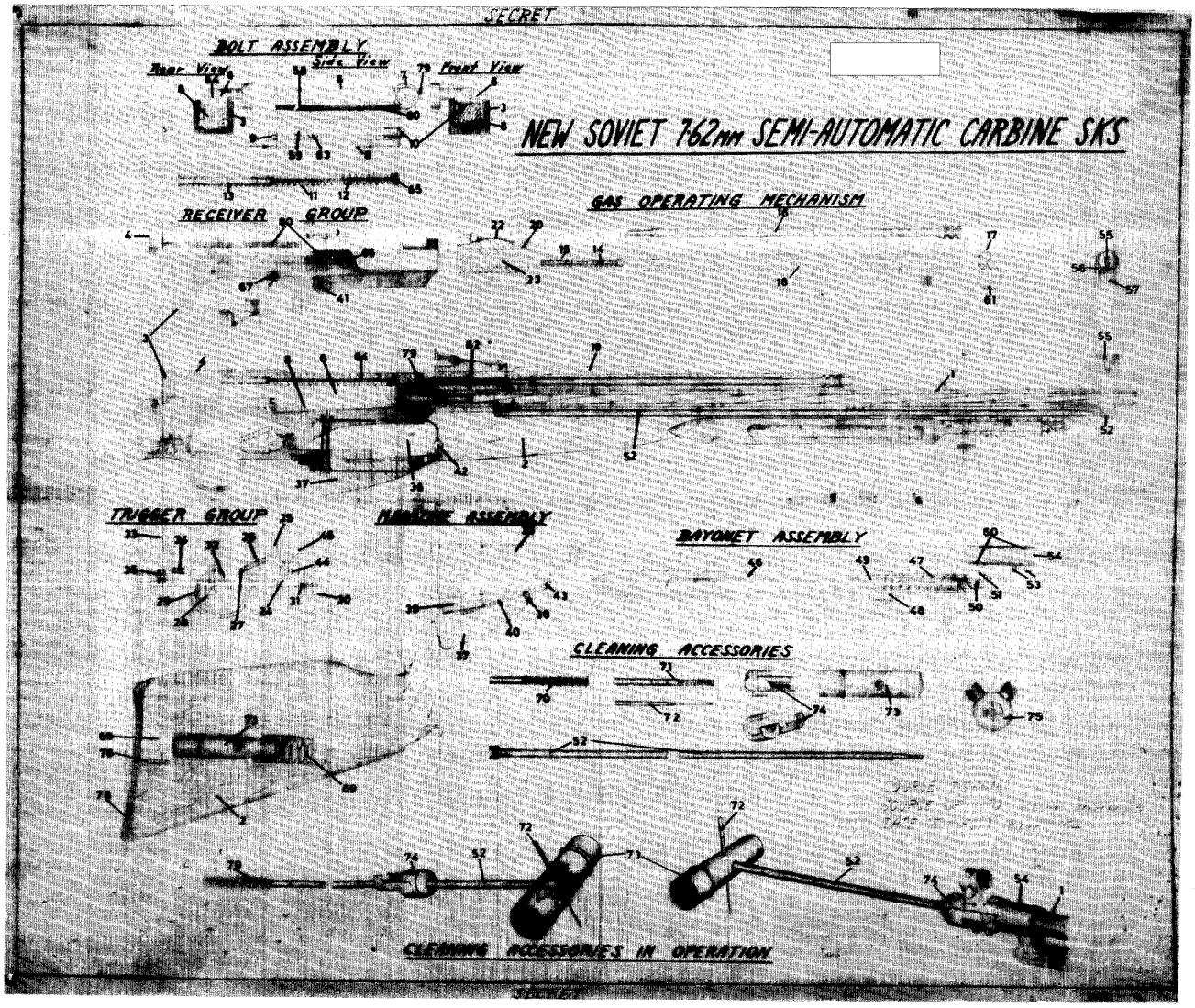

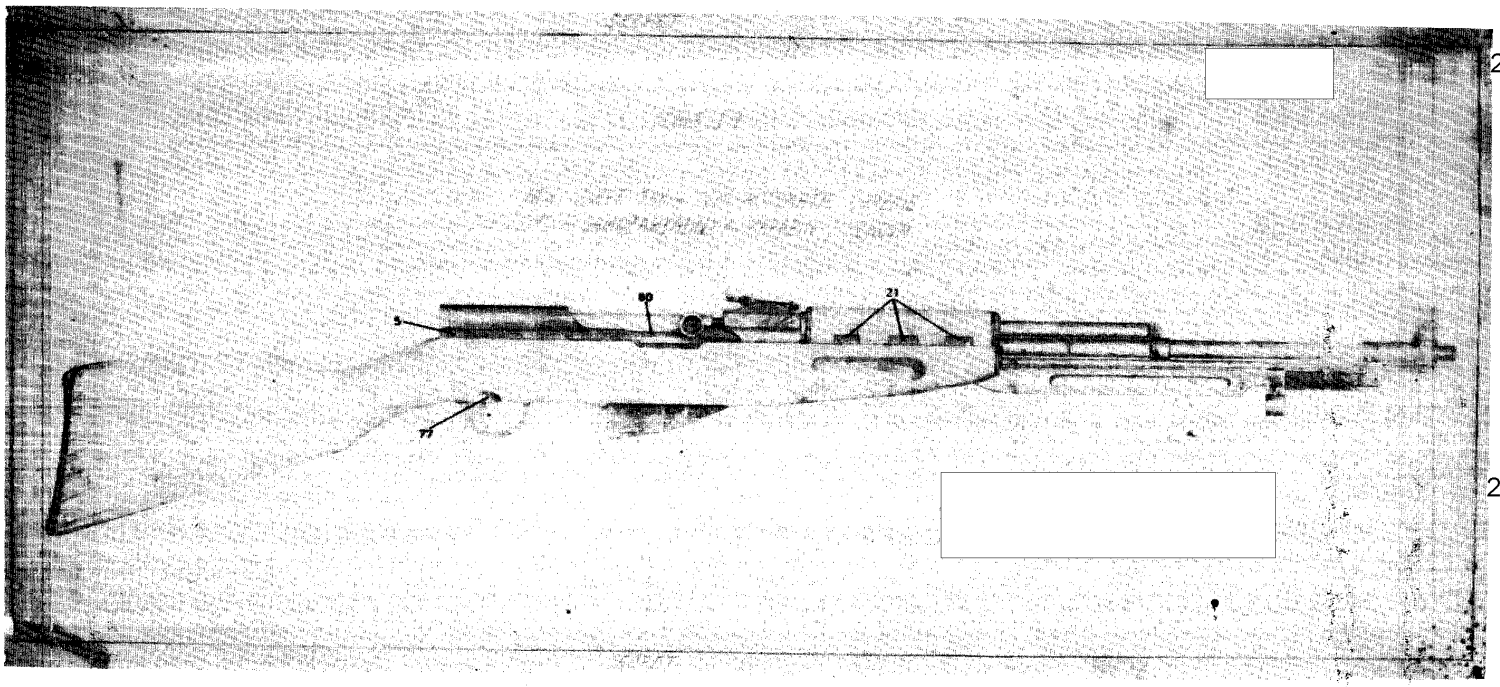

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